



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

# Advisory

July 1, 2005

Contact: Ana Santiago  
305.970.2219

## USCIS TO WELCOME MORE THAN 15,000 NEW CITIZENS DURING 4<sup>th</sup> Of JULY WEEK

Ceremonies to Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America

**San Juan, Puerto Rico** – More than 350 San Juan-area residents will take the Oath of Allegiance and become United States citizens during a special ceremony on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Teatro Tapia.. The event is one of numerous “Celebrate Citizenship, Celebrate America” ceremonies that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will host during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week. In all, USCIS will celebrate our nation’s 229<sup>th</sup> birthday by welcoming more than 15,000 new American citizens.

The keynote speech of the ceremony will be delivered by Puerto Rico’s ex governor, Carlos Romero Barcelo. Also delivering remarks will be Magaly Febles, originally from Dominican Republic. Febles, a well-known personality on the island, is the owner of the Miss Universe Puerto Rico Enterprise and will be become a U.S. citizen during this ceremony.

The Teatro Tapia is likely to be the oldest freestanding drama stage building still in use in the United States. It faces east, across from Plaza de Colon, on Fortaleza Street, and was built in or about 1832. After some years of neglect, the theater was restored in the last decades, and is now used to provide intimate drama and other cultural events.

The new Americans hail from the following 34 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippine, Russia, Syria, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The following individuals have consented to be interviewed by the media before or during the ceremony:

**Denise Gonzalez Duran** – Originally from Venezuela, Gonzalez Duran is an architect. She has been a legal permanent resident of the United States since 1991. She can be reached at: 787-776-8390 or 787-750-4708.

**Jenny Medina Ugaz**- Originally from Peru, Media Ugaz works for the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico. She can be reached at: 787-562-2346.

Each year, USCIS welcomes more than 450,000 citizens during naturalization ceremonies across the United States. Included in those numbers are more than 10,000 members of the armed forces who have naturalized through an expedited process related to their military service.

On March 1, 2003, USCIS became one of three legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.

**EVENT:        Naturalization Ceremony**

**DATE: Thursday, July 7, 2005**

**TIME:         8:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Teatro Tapia  
Fortaleza Street  
Old San Juan, Puerto Rico**

*Members of the media should arrive 30 minutes before the ceremony begins.*

For more information about this ceremony or the naturalization process, please call USCIS Public Affairs Officer Ana Santiago at the numbers provided above.

For more information regarding immigration services, please call 1-800-375-5283 or visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

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